from them. This Government have not intervened in that matter. They use their own influence with the Government of India and get those concessions. They are getting, as a consequence, a quota from the Government of India while others are getting paper from the paper mills at rates which the Punalur Mills Company have fixed, having regard to their outlay and other charges and also payment of wage rolls and so forth. In these circumstances, a comparison between one newspaper and another is not accurate, because certain newspapers get directly from the Government of India at special rates.

Assault by the Excise Reserve Guard.

38. ***Mr. Paul A. Thaliath:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any complaints in Makaram 1119 about the unwarranted assault by the Excise Reserve Guards on people living near the Kalady market in the Kunnatnad taluk;

(*b*) whether the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Parur, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Alwaye, and the District Magistrate, Kottayam, have conducted any enquiry into this matter; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative the result of such an enquiry and the action taken on the same?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under investigation.

Temporary arrack shops during makaravilakku season.

39. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of temporary arrack shops opened during the years 1118, 1119 and 1120; and

(*b*) the necessity for opening temporary arrack shops during the Makaravilakku festivals?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan:

	Year.	Kottayam Division.	Mavelikara Division.	Total.
(*a*)	1118	2	4	6
	1119	2	4	6
	1120	2	4	6

(*b*) To meet the demand for arrack in connection with the festival at certain places where regular licenses have not been issued.

Transport of Food Grains.

40. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they commandeer country crafts for the transport of food grains;

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup]

(*b*) whether they have police escorts in the vallams while carrying the food grains ;

(*c*) whether any authorised agent of the owner of the canoe or vallom also is taken in it while transporting food grains ;

(*d*) whether they realise the value of the shortage of food grains while in transport, if any, from the owner of the vallom who does not make any contract with the Government in that behalf;

(*e*) if the answer to part (d) is in the affirmative, what is the maximum value for shortage realised by the Government for a vallom in 1119 and 1120;

(*f*) what is the total value of shortage realised from the owners of vallams in 1119 and 1120; and

(*g*) what is the principle in such a realisation of the value of shortage from the absentee owners who have nothing to do in the transport of food grains ?

Mr. T. K. Gopalan Nair (*Secretary to Goverment*): (*a*) Yes; some vallams have been commandeered for the transport of food grains.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) None, except in cases where the boatman is also the owner of the vallom.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) to (*g*) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (d)

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : With reference to answer to part (d) may I know whether any step has been taken for the realisation of such damage from any owner of the vallom ?

Mr. T. K Gopalan Nair : No attempt has been made to realise such shortages from the owners of vallams. But sometimes they pay for the boatmen.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : I challenge that statement because, I know for certain that certain boat owners have been asked to pay damages. There is no agreement between the owner of the canoe and the Government if any loss happens during transport.

President : The Honourable Member will please put a question.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : I am just making a statement for the information of Government as it arises from the answer that has been furnished by Government. I am aware that about half a dozen boat men have been troubled by the Food Department for payment towards the loss sustained in connection with the transport of food grains.

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President: Such petitions have come to Government.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: The answer to part (d) is that Government do not realise the value of the shortage of food grains while in transport, from the owner of the vallom.

President: What the answer means is that on the information available to Government, they have not so far realised but I know that steps are being taken to realise from boat owners in certain circumstances. The boat-owners and the boatmen fulfil a very curious role. Evidently the boatmen are given a permanent lease of the use of boats by the boat owners and virtually they are the owners in a more real sense. That is the case with almost all boats. It has come to the notice of Government that the majority of boatmen are the owners of boats too. But the opposite also is the case in some instances. When you seek to make the owners liable they say that the boatmen are liable and when you go to the boatmen they say that the boat owners are liable. In some cases we are aware that it is the boat owners who were really responsible for the shortage of food grains while in transport and wherever that has been found, proceedings are being taken against them. But if there is any particular hardship found out by the Honourable Member in this connection, he may as well bring it to the notice of Government and the matter will be considered.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: When there is police escort for the transport of grains from Cochin to Alleppey, why should a boat owner be penalised for the shortages that occur?

President: Because there might be conspiracy between the policeman and the boat owner. After all we employ certain constables for the transport of food grains from Cochin to these places. No doubt, you may say that Government having employed the policemen must be careful enough to see that no shortage occurs. Certainly, one cannot expect a particular set of people to be keeping their eyes and ears open at all times. Human nature being what it is Government do consider that everybody is liable to suspision unless the contrary is proved. There is the policemen, the boat owners, the boatmen and loss. Somebody must pay for the loss. We presume that our officers are virtuous and so something is realised from the boatmen. If the contrary is proved, we will proceed against the officers.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: The possibility of a boatman being in conspiracy with a policeman is out of the question.

President: Supposing you are placed in the position, for the transport of food grains, what will you do in the matter?

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: My point is that as between policeman and the boat owner, the policeman has the upper hand and he will be able to do any mischief.

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President: The whole thing will end in a few months when such a situation will not arise.

Transport of food grains.

41. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have transported food grains from Cochin in country crafts to Travancore in 1118 and 1119 ;

(*b*) what is the total number of bags carried or transported in vallams from Cochin in 1118 and 1119 and what is the total charge incurred in that behalf in those years?

Mr. T. K. Gopalan Nair: (*a*) Yes in 1119 and none in 1118.

(*b*) 8,56,390 bags in 1118 and 19,19,631 bags in 1119, the total transport charges incurred being B. Rs. 1,09,007-6-5 in 1118 B. Rs. 4,69,676-13-11 in 1119.

Trasport of food grains.

42. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether food grains have been transported from Cochin Harbour to Travancore in ships in 1119 and 1120 ;

(*b*) if so, how many bags in how many trips have been transported in ships in 1118 and 1119 ;

(*c*) what is the total fare paid to such ships in 1118 and 1119;

(*d*) what is the average number of bags carried per trip in ships and the fare paid per trip ; and

(*e*) whether food grains were weighed and entrusted to ships before transporting and reweighed and taken delivery in Travancore?

Mr. T. K. Gopalan Nair: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There was no transport by ships in 1118. 3,16,235 bags in 24 trips were transported in 1119.

(*c*) Nil in 1118 and Bh. Rs. 4,21,031-9-7 in 1119.

(*d*) 12,000 bags and Bh. Rs. 16,700.

(*e*) Yes.

Fertiliser plant.

43. ***Mr. A. N. Satyanesan:** Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) whether the rumour that a fertiliser plant at a cost of 70 lakhs of dollars is to be installed in the State is true ; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, will they have any control in connection with the appointment of over 5000 persons in the said concern?

Mr. C. Kumara Das (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The fertiliser plant to be installed at Alwaye will, when erected, cost about 6 million dollars.

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